

## OBITUARY

### JÚLIUS ŠÚTOR (1935-2016) PROMINENT HYDROLOGIST PASSED AWAY

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*Július Šútor (1935 – 2016)*

Dihydrogen-oxide. A most essential substance of life. Colourless, transparent, tasteless, scentless compound of oxygen and hydrogen in liquid state, convertible by heat into steam and by cold into ice. Our vocabulary has countless words concerning the form, appearance and the like of this material; ice, snow, hail, hoar, rime, moisture, dew, vapour, steam – and sea, ocean, lake, pond, river, creek, brook, stream, fluid, drop and droplet – and also such phenomena as cloud, fog, rain, shower, tide, flood or on the contrary, words that may indicate the lack of that, from wilting to drought. Any of these words has a certain meaning providing us with information about this substance. The history of mankind is also a history of struggles to control and regulate water. Hydrology is the scientific study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water on Earth including the hydrologic cycles, water resources and environmental watershed sustainability.

A man whose life was dedicated to explore, experiment and explain the nature of water passed away. Július Šútor was not a hydrologist only, but a scientist building strong relations within the international scientific community for a better understanding.

Július Šútor was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 1935 in Vel'ké Uherce, Czechoslovakia. He was educated at the secondary school of Prievidza where he completed his final exam in 1954. He continued his studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Komensky University, Bratislava. He graduated in 1959. Soon afterwards he started his scientific career at the Institute of Hydrology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, his only workplace in his life. He started as a young research fellow, served at all levels of the scientific hierarchy. Between 1992 and 2004 until his retirement, he was the director of the institute. Actually he never ceased his

research work. Until the last days of his life he was a key person in the field of hydrology, water management, soil science and land use.

His scientific activity was remarkable. His research has yielded internationally renowned results especially in the field of hydrology, water management and hydromechanics. One of his major works was the complex survey describing the hydrological conditions of Slovakia. He has developed a wide range of methodological innovations as well. His methods in relation with the determination of subsoil water properties and kinetics are in use up to now in many countries.

He defended his PhD (RNDr) dissertation in 1966, and he was given the DrSc title of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 1982. He was the president of the Association of Hydrologists of Slovakia. He was an active member of the Alps-Adria Scientific Cooperation. His publication and dissemination activity was also remarkable. He was editorial board member of several scientific journals: Hydrology and Hydromechanics, International Agrophysics, and Acta Hydrologica Slovaca.

Things that belong to each other may merge – says an old proverb. Simply, if we, neighbours do not cooperate, do not help ourselves on a mutual basis no one in the world will do a favour to us. Common problems can only be solved by common efforts. We can learn a lot from highly educated wise scientists of the great and wealthy nations in the world. However they can never accomplish the work of ours. The biggest result of Július Šútor was that he could build and maintain bridges between scientists of various countries even in peculiar periods of history.

In the name of the scientific community, we would like to express our thanks to his work and results, his friendly personality, and at the same time we would like to say farewell. Professor Šútor, rest in peace!



Július Šútor and György Várallyay at the AASW Špičák, 2010.